

RURAL DISTRICT OF
SOUTH WESTMORLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1948

LIVERPOOL

C. TINLING AND COMPANY, LIMITED, PRINTERS, 53, VICTORIA STREET

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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District of South Westmorland.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Rural District during the year 1948.

Three Acts of Parliament which became operative during the year have completely reorientated the position of the public health service in the social structure of England. I refer to the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

I believe that these statutes offer great opportunities for advancement in the primary functions of hygiene and preventive medicine.

The progress of post-war recovery has encouraged the resumption of many of your public health duties which have been in abeyance for over eight years. Determination is still needed to overcome the initial inertia.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague, the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my Department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

If you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to furnish them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies' and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres	...	...	...	...	151,007
Population (mid 1948)	...	...	...	...	17,040
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	5,124
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£103,957

The Rural District of South Westmorland is a pleasant rolling countryside which rises from sea level in the south to nearly a thousand feet in the north. The shore-line extends for about 14 miles along the estuary of the River Kent, flat and marshy on the north, but with picturesque wooded slopes on the south.

The District is divided into three main valley areas by the two ridges of Scout Scar and Killington, which run north and south across the centre of the southern portion of Westmorland. On the west lie the Winsters and Lyth Valleys, in the middle lies the valley of the Kent, and on the extreme east lies the Lune Valley.

The dividing ridge of Scout Scar is sharp and barren, but the larger watershed which runs from Hutton Roof in the south to Whinfell in the north is rolling upland more suitable for agriculture. In the extreme north of the District is the high barrier of the central massif of Westmorland. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of the Rural District is sharply divided by the great fault which runs from Kendal in the north to Burton in the south-west and Kirkby Lonsdale in the south-east after branching near Crooklands. The country to the north-east of this fault consists of Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System, with appreciable deposits of glacial drift. The rocks to the west of the fault are carboniferous limestones, with some of the Yoredale Series in the extreme south. The valleys contain much alluvial deposit and some glacial drift. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of the water supplies, sewerage, and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable, though invigorating on the uplands. The valleys are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and their southern aspect provides full access to sunshine.

Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall varies between

40 and 50 inches a year, and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is mainly agricultural in character and many of the small local industries and crafts are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much local employment and bring prosperity to the villages :—

Paper Mills.	Wood Turning.
Woollen Mills.	Stone Quarries.
Mat Making.	Tarmacadam manufacture.
Comb Making.	Cardboard Box manufacture.
Milk Depots.	Condensed Milk Factory.
Furniture Factory.	Diatomaceous Earthworks.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business at Arnside, Kirkby Lonsdale, and those northerly parts of the area which lie within the Lake District. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has stopped the drift from the countryside and has kept South Westmorland happily free from unemployment, and provided that economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

The rateable value of the Rural District is £103,957, and the product of a penny rate is £438. The Rate for 1948/49 is 19s, 2d. in the Pound, of which 13s. 11½d. represents the County Rate.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
F. T. Madge ...	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
J. Harrison ...	M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.San.I., F.S.I.A.	Chief Sanitary Inspector	Part	Building Surveyor
D. Shepherd ...	A.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., F.S.I.A.	Additional Sanitary Inspector	Whole	—
W. H. Aldersley...	M.S.I.A.	Additional Sanitary Inspector	Whole	—
H. Moss ...	—	Clerk	Whole	—
K. A. Beveridge...	—	Clerk	Whole	—
B. M. Machell ...	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
W. E. R. Thomas	F.I.A.S., M.R.San.I., A.Inst.W.E.	Water Engineer	Part	Sanitary Engineer
P. Hampshire ...	—	Housing Manager	Whole	—

Clerical assistance in the Sanitary Department is afforded by the whole-time service of one male clerk and one female shorthand-typist.

The only staff change during 1948 was the appointment of Miss K. A. Beveridge vice Miss Boyle, who resigned.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1947 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 151,007

	1947	1948
Estimated civilian population (mid-year) ...	17,040	18,190
Live Births. Legitimate— males	169	134
females	109	126
Illegitimate— males	7	5
females	14	7
Total	299	272
Rate per 1,000 population	17·5	14·9
Rate for England and Wales	20·5	17·9
Stillbirths. Legitimate— males	6	2
females	3	2
Illegitimate— males	—	—
females	—	—
Total	9	4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	29·2	14·4
Rate per 1,000 population	0·52	0·22
Rate for England and Wales	0·50	0·42
Deaths. males	122	103
females	119	122
Total	241	225
Rate per 1,000 population	14·1	12·4
Rate for England and Wales	12·0	10·8
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Legitimate	9	11
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	32·3	42·3
Illegitimate	2	1
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	95·2	83·3
Total Deaths under 1 year	11	12
Rate per 1,000 live births	36·8	44·1
Rate for England and Wales	41	34

	1947	1948
Neo-natal Deaths (under 1 month)		
Total Neo-natal Deaths	8	7
Rate per 1,000 live births	26·7	25·7
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)		
Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ...	5·8	3·3
Maternal Mortality		
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	3·6
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	—	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	3·6
Total Deaths	—	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	7·2
Rate for England and Wales ...	1·17	1·02
Deaths from certain Causes—	1947	1948
Cancer	34	37
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
The main causes of Death were —		
Heart Disease ... ..	...	86
Cancer ... ..	...	37
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ... ..	...	25

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1948.

The Registrar-General's estimate of your civilian mid-year resident population was 18,190, which is 1,150 more than last year. This increase may be represented as an excess of births over deaths of 47, and the immigration to your District of at least 1,103 persons.

This estimated figure of 18,190 reflects a fairly stable population which has varied very little since your boundaries were revised in 1935. A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Before the second World War you were a declining community not only showing less births than deaths, but also drifting steadily each year out of the countryside. There was a small artificial increase in 1940 to 1942, due to some three thousand war evacuees from the vulnerable areas, but these people have now nearly all gone back. For the past six years you have maintained your population by your own reproduction, and I hope this encouraging sign will continue.

The estimated eleven hundred immigrants into your District during the past year may possibly be due in part to the attraction of your good record in the building of new houses, and partly to Kendal's overspill during a period of expansion.

I believe that the setting up of a better basis for agriculture in the national economy has checked the drift from the countryside, and has encouraged your young folk to renew their faith in country life by settling down and undertaking the responsibilities of a family.

Birth Rate.

Although your birth-rate is below the average for England and Wales it is well above your death-rate. The effect of the two wars has aggravated the position. The present child-bearing and begetting population suffered twice. There is a sad gap in their ranks due to the unborn casualties of the first World War, and at the onset of the second War their marriages were delayed, prevented or frustrated at the time of their maximum fertility.

Still-birth Rate.

Your still-birth rate was satisfactory.

Death Rate.

Your death-rate was slightly above that for England and Wales, but I attach no significance to that fact.

Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.

Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths which are deaths in children under one month of age. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, child-birth and abnormal development, which are more likely to cause death within the first month, from the factors connected with infant management which are more likely to cause death between one month and one year.

There were 12 infant deaths in 1948, and of these 7 were neo-natal deaths. The infantile death-rate was slightly above that for England and Wales, and an increase again on your figures for the previous two years. You will remember that in 1910 your rate was 120, during the first decade of this century it varied between 80 and 70, during the 'twenties it fell to between 60 and 50, and during the last few years it has been between 40 and 20. Your figures are too scanty to carry any great statistical significance, but as the trend runs parallel to that for England and Wales I consider that they reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses, and, above all, by the young mothers in their homes. I hope that this happy state will continue.

The neo-natal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these in the past have been due to prematurity, abnormality, or the result of difficult child-birth. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal deaths.

Maternal Mortality.

Two mothers lost their lives in childbirth during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Parts II and III.

Outbreaks of Measles were the most prominent feature of 1948. There was a small outbreak in January in the Burton and Holme Area, then a rather protracted series of cases in the Lyth Valley during the Spring.

Kirkby Lonsdale suffered a sharp and more extensive outbreak in May and June. There had been half-a-dozen cases at the end of April and a couple during May, but the first wave of the epidemic reached its peak during the last week of the month, when about two dozen cases were notified. The second wave came about a fortnight later and affected about 50 children. There was a small third wave during the fourth week in June and a few scattered cases to round off the attack. Luckily the disease was fairly mild and no deaths were reported from Measles and its complications.

A fourth small outbreak occurred in Staveley during July and continued intermittently into August.

There were three cases of Bacillary Dysentery in the Lyth Valley during January and it was necessary to make special arrangements for dealing with the milk from this farm household. There were also two cases of Dysentery on the outskirts of Kendal at the end of February, but these were of no epidemiological significance.

Whooping Cough spared the District during 1948 and was limited mainly to a few cases in the Milnthorpe District.

There were 8 cases of Scarlet Fever scattered throughout the Area.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to record that there were no cases of Diphtheria during the year. The steady decline of this disease has undoubtedly been due to the effect of immunisation. This free service is available to all, and comprises two small injections into the arm, between the ages of eight months and one year, with a reinforcing dose on starting school at five years old. This gives protection against this deadly disease. I wish to thank the local doctors and district nurses for their efforts to secure the immunisation of every baby before the first birthday, and the school medical officers for their part in helping to wipe out Diphtheria in South Westmorland.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages										Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Scarlet Fever ...	11	—	1	—	1	1	3	4	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery... ..	6	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	208	6	13	17	16	15	109	17	3	9	3	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	10	1	2	1	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	237	7	18	19	18	18	114	22	4	12	3	2	12

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

The current arrangements during 1948 were :—

Smallpox ... Fairhill Isolation Hospital, Penrith.

Other Diseases ... Lancaster and District Isolation Hospital.

The motor ambulance belonging to Kendal Borough was chartered as required for conveyance of infectious cases to Hospital from the District. This function was transferred to the County Council on 5th July, 1948, as part of the General Fire and Ambulance Service.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Steam disinfection of suitable articles has been situated in the Borough of Kendal. In the more scattered parts of the District reliance has to be placed upon disinfection with formaldehyde.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	3	5	1	—	—	2	—	—
25	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	8	6	4	—	3	1	—

Of the cases notified, six were transfers from other areas, two were service cases and two respiratory and one non-respiratory died during the year.

HOUSING.

Present Housing Position.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 57.

There were 5,124 inhabited houses on your Rate Book at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 18,190 the average number of persons per house is 3·5, which is not a high figure. There were 13 cases of legal overcrowding.

The great majority of cottage houses and farmhouses are of considerable age and are stone built. The District was only slightly affected during the period of industrial development, and it was only between 1919 and 1939 that the type of semi-detached brick and rough-cast dwelling was erected. Many of the older houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without extensive works in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable.

In those parishes where public services are available, most of the houses are provided with modern amenities. Elsewhere they are lacking, although continual attempts are being made to improve water supplies and sanitation in spite of the difficulties of the times.

Your Rural Housing Survey Report set out the details of these conditions in each Parish, and it is gratifying to compare these with your amended figures for the end of 1948 to see the improvements which have been effected.

Classification at Rural Housing Survey in 1946.

No.	Type of House.	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
1	Houses of R.V. £22 or under, excluding farms.	657	108	1,650	440	447	3,302
2	Houses of R.V. over £22	552	24	120	1	—	697
3	Farm Houses	38	74	579	177	39	907
4	TOTAL	1,247	206	2,349	618	486	4,906

Classification at end of 1948.

No.	Type of House.	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
1	Houses of R.V. of £22 or under excluding farms.	924	107	1,623	425	432	3,511
2	Houses of R.V. over £22	560	24	119	1	—	704
3	Farm Houses	74	91	547	162	35	909
4	TOTAL	1,558	222	2,289	588	467	5,124

Housing Act Action.

A modest start has been made in slum clearance during the year. Your new housing provision has been encouraging and a proportion of new houses have been allocated to tenants from very substandard dwellings.

After ten years' inactivity in this field considerable energy is needed to overcome the initial inertia. If your Council tackles this problem with courage tempered with reasonableness I am sure that the sorry plight of many of your rural slum dwellers can be alleviated.

The Housing Bill which will probably be enacted in 1949 promises considerable financial aid to owners for reconditioning houses. I hope that full advantage will be taken of these opportunities.

Meanwhile it is essential that the necessary preliminary action should be commenced on condemnable property. In this way you will avoid subsequent delay, the operation of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, will be facilitated, and your future housing requirements can be more accurately assessed.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 12.

No closing orders were made during the year. There were five Closing Orders in force at the year end, and included in this figure were five Orders which have not yet been complied with and are still in occupation. This is not a satisfactory position.

The houses still occupied are situated at :—

Two houses, Art School, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Two houses, Old Vicarage, Staveley.

One house, School Lane, Staveley.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

During 1948 your Council accepted formal undertakings under section 11 that the following premises will not be used for human habitation after vacation by the present tenants :—

Two cottages at Carr's Yard, Milnthorpe—still occupied.

One cottage at Rose Hill, Stainton—empty.

At the year end the total number of such undertakings was 11, the balance of 8 being situated and occupied as follows :—

Two houses in Vicarage Lane, Kirkby Lonsdale—still occupied.

One House at Low Biggin, Kirkby Lonsdale—still occupied.

Two houses at Fellfoot Mill, Hugill—still occupied.

Two houses at 42 and 43, Park Road, Milnthorpe—still occupied.

One house in Main Street, Staveley—empty.

Undertakings to perform Works.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

During the year your Council accepted the owner's formal undertaking under Section 11 to perform works to render the house fit for human habitation at :—

Green Cross Cottage, Burton.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

During 1948 your Council served demolition orders on 9 dwellings situated at :—

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Newbiggin Cottages, Levens.

One house in Carr's Yard, Milnthorpe.

Three houses at Halfpenny, Stainton.

Nos. 4 and 5, Humphrey Cottages, Stainton.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Newbiggin Cottages, Levens, formed the continuation of your Council's action as far back as 1938, when the owner submitted proposals for reconditioning. Such works were not performed and your Council was not protected by the existence of a formal undertaking under Section 11. Statutory action was therefore commenced in 1948 and the owner failed to submit his proposals within the prescribed time limit. Your Council therefore made and served a demolition order. Notice of appeal to the County Court was received but the Appeal was withdrawn when your Council proposed to accept undertakings that the

owner would not sell or re-let any of these houses upon vacancy. This unusual procedure was pending at the year end.

The house in Carr's Yard, Milnthorpe, was made subject to the demolition order without opposition. It is not proposed to effect actual demolition until the house is vacated by the present tenant.

The three cottages at Halfpenny, Stainton, were considered by the owner to be not worth reconditioning, but your Council at their own expense secured an independent report by an architect. It was confirmed that the houses were not savable and therefore the demolition orders were made without opposition, but deferring actual demolition until the present tenants vacate the premises.

Nos. 4 and 5, Humphrey Cottages, Stainton, were made subject to the demolition orders without opposition.

At the year end your Council had the following actions under Section 11 still pending :—

Three cottages in Carr's Yard, Milnthorpe.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Humphrey Cottages, Stainton.

Four cottages at Rose Hill, Stainton.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 25.

No Clearance Areas are outstanding, but as your new housing position improves I shall be making official representations against blocks of sub-standard property in Kirkby Lonsdale, Burton, Staveley, Burneside, Milnthorpe, and Levens, comprising a total of 13 Clearance Areas.

Condemned Houses Occupied by Licence or Requisition.

One condemned house at Barley Bridge, Staveley, remains occupied under your licence issued under Defence Regulation 68A for the housing of bombed-out persons. I recommend that this licence should be determined as soon as possible.

No condemned houses have been requisitioned by your Council under Defence Regulation 51 for the accommodation of persons inadequately housed.

Fit Houses Requisitioned.

Defence Regulation 51.

The following premises were still under your requisition at the year end :—

Gatefoot Cottage, Staveley.
 Cross View, Milnthorpe.
 Hill End, Underbarrow.
 7, Church View, Natland.
 The Hill, Arnside.
 Moor Cottage, Hutton Roof.

No premises were derequisitioned by your Council during the year.

The two lowest houses on the above list were requisitioned during 1948.

Estimated Requirements for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 71.

You will remember that your post-war demand was estimated to be about 1,100 houses, made up of about 530 condemned and condemnable houses and about 570 needed for agricultural workers and for the provision of a house for each family unit.

At the end of 1948 the figure for the condemned and condemnable group remained virtually unaltered, say 530 houses.

The check of your housing application lists made under Ministry of Health Circular 171/48 revealed that the waiting list of 392 contained 155 families without separate homes and 237 families who desired to change their place of residence.

The waiting list is still increasing under both headings due to immigration into your District. The future housing demand is very fluid as it is related not only to population changes but also to the decreasing financial resources of non-wage earners to pay their rents and rates.

At the end of 1948 it seemed that having built 240 new houses by the Council and private enterprise, there was still an outstanding need for another 750 or 800. The figures for this estimation being :—

Replacement of condemned houses still occupied	...	...	23
Replacement of condemnable houses still occupied	...	...	507
Remaining Agricultural demand	...	...	100
Families without separate homes on application list...	...	...	155
Total at end of 1948	...	...	785

The replacement of condemned houses still occupied is calculated as five Closing Orders, nine Undertakings, and nine Demolition Orders.

The condemnable houses are based on the Class 4 and 5 figures of the Rural Housing Survey, and assume that ten per cent. of the Class 4 houses will have so deteriorated as to require replacements, and five per cent. of the Class 5 houses will be made satisfactory in spite of the cost.

The agricultural demand represents a minimum requirement. The difficulties of labour in the farmhouses are hardening the farmers' wives against the workers living-in, and the shortage of cottages discourages married men. The position is, however, still complicated by the Government's policy against tied cottages, and this embarrassment leads to a vicious circle in the letting of Council houses between the tenants, the farmers and your Council. The policy of siting farmworkers' houses in existing villages may be satisfactory in arable farming areas, but it leads to working difficulties on stock farms where it is desirable for the men to be near their work.

The provision of a house for each family unit is calculated on the recently checked data provided in your Council's application lists. One has to bear in mind that the portion of your District which surrounds Kendal is used very considerably as a dormitory area for Kendal's overflow of population. I would again stress the need for the closest co-ordination to be continued with the Borough in order to minimise duplication.

This estimated requirement for new houses takes no account of possible industrial development in your District. The Milnthorpe area is capable of some small development, and the workshops of the Liverpool Seamen's Welfare Centre at Summerlands seem to be rapidly expanding in scope, but on the whole there is no appreciable reservoir of labour to attract light industries to your District. Your immigration figures show how labour follows the houses, and scope for expansion is largely in your own hands.

Your Building Surveyor made a mid-year estimate of your needs as 975 which he analysed by Parishes in Table 1.

ANALYSIS OF HOUSING NEEDS. MID-YEAR 1948.

ESTIMATES IN PARISH ORDER OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS
FOR ALL PURPOSES AT MAY, 1948.

Parish.	Estimated number for approximate needs.	Number required for Agricultural workers.	Number required for replacement.	Totals.
1. Arnside	20	2	2	24
2. Barbon	1	—	6	7
3. Beetham	40	10	30	80
4. Burton	10	6	31	47
5. Casterton	2	5	1	8
6. Crook	2	—	19	21
7. Crosthwaite and Lyth ...	2	—	13	15
8. Dalton	—	—	2	2
9. Dillicar	—	—	6	6
10. Docker	—	—	2	2
11. Fawcett Forest	—	—	1	1
12. Firbank	—	—	6	6
13. Grayrigg	6	4	5	15
14. Helsington	3	6	11	20
15. Heversham	4	6	1	11
16. Hincaster... ..	—	2	2	4
17. Holme	18	4	10	32
18. Hugill	—	—	16	16
19. Hutton Roof	—	—	9	9
20. Kentmere	—	2	8	10
21. Killington	—	2	4	6
22. Kirkby Lonsdale	47	9	55	111
23. Lambrigg... ..	—	—	2	2
24. Levens	15	8	35	58
25. Longsleddale	—	—	1	1
26. Lupton	—	6	4	10
27. Mansergh	—	—	5	5
28. Meathop	—	2	1	3
29. Middleton	—	—	6	6
30. Milnthorpe	56	2	34	92
31. Natland	1	4	13	18
32. Nether Staveley	—	6	4	10
33. New Hutton	—	—	5	5
34. Old Hutton	7	10	20	37
35. Over Staveley	29	—	38	67
36. Patton	—	—	2	2
37. Preston Patrick	—	6	18	24
38. Preston Richard	28	—	8	36
39. Scalthwaiterigg	—	—	—	—
40. Sedgwick	4	—	6	10
41. Skelsmergh	6	4	9	19
42. Stainton	14	8	16	38
43. Strickland Ketel	—	2	21	23
44. Strickland Roger	—	2	13	15
45. Underbarrow	—	—	12	12
46. Whinfell	—	—	1	1
47. Whitwell and Selside ...	—	8	3	11
48. Witherslack	—	4	13	17
TOTALS	315	130	530	975

During 1948 the number of houses completed was 156, which brings the total demand at the year end nearer my previous estimation of 750 to 800 houses.

Your Council's Housing Schemes and Progress.

Your Council reviewed the position at the beginning of the year and formulated their policy to build between 400 and 500 houses within the next five years, and the balance, not covered by private enterprise, in a subsequent period if Government approval is obtained.

For record purposes I have to set out this summary of the progress of your housing schemes as at the year end, and a similar summary of the progress of building by private enterprise :—

Local Authority Post-War Housing Schemes Progress up to 31st December, 1948.

Parish.	No. of Houses for which Contracts have been let.	Houses completed.			Houses under construction.	Houses on tender not yet commenced.
		1946	1947	1948		
Arnside	20	—	—	16	4	—
Barbon	4	—	—	4	—	—
Beetham (Storth) ...	12	—	—	6	6	—
Beetham (Stanley Street)	8	—	—	—	8	—
Burton	10	—	10	—	—	—
Endmoor	10	—	—	10	—	—
Heversham	4	—	—	4	—	—
Holme	22	8	—	6	8	—
Kirkby Lonsdale ...	22	—	10	12	—	—
Levens	10	—	—	10	—	—
Milnthorpe	68	—	8	26	32	2
Natland	8	—	8	—	—	—
Sedgwick	4	—	—	4	—	—
Stainton	8	—	—	—	8	—
Staveley	18	—	16	2	—	—
Old Hutton	6	—	—	—	6	—
Skelsmergh	4	—	—	—	4	—
Crosthwaite	8	—	—	—	8	—
Grayrigg	4	—	—	—	4	—
TOTALS	250	8	52	100	88	2
		160				

Sites have been acquired but building has not yet commenced at Casterton, Crook, Helsington, Selside, Natland, and Milnthorpe.

Sites are in process of being acquired at Meathop, Burton, Staveley, Lupton, Farleton, Strickland Ketel, and Hincaster.

Housing by Private Enterprise, Post-war up to 31st December, 1948.

Parish.	Licences issued.			Houses completed.			Houses under construction.	Houses not started.
	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948		
Arnside ...	28	—	1	2	15	7	3	2
Beetham ...	15	—	—	—	1	2	—	12
Burneside ...	12	—	1	4	8	—	1	—
Crook ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Crosthwaite ...	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
K. Lonsdale ...	6	—	—	1	4	1	—	—
Levens ...	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Meathop ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Milnthorpe ...	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Natland ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Preston Richard ...	2	2	—	1	—	2	1	—
Preston Patrick ...	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Staveley ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Summerlands ...	15	10	—	15	—	9	—	1
Underbarrow ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Witherslack ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Patton ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ...	93	16	4	25	38	27	7	15
	113			90				

Selection of Tenants.

Selection of tenants for Council houses is done on a points basis; briefly the system consists of a single initial application used for filing and reference; when houses in the district in which the applicant requires accommodation are nearing completion a further form is sent requiring extensive information; after seven to fourteen days the Housing Manager visits each applicant, the relevant facts are checked, he then makes out the points award form. When all applicants have been visited a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee, the local representatives and a representative of the Agricultural interests meet, the applications are then considered on a points basis, no names being disclosed. The system appears to work with complete satisfaction. As between 400 and 500 houses are considered to be needed to provide a home for each family unit and meet the agricultural demand, I must repeat my plea for a high degree of priority to be given to the occupiers of your sub-standard dwellings. I believe that their salvation from physical ills due to bad housing is a work of greater mercy than relieving the emotional incompatibilities of those who have to share the better houses.

Housing Management.

Your Council owned 226 occupied houses at the year end, and housing management in the District is under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, an arrangement which, in my opinion, is most satisfactory ; it ensures that unsatisfactorily housed persons, who are either in sub-standard dwellings or grossly overcrowded are given due consideration and not overlooked. The arrangement also permits the technical officer most concerned having control of repairs and ensures that the property is well maintained. Some extension of this function is due, insofar as the Council will shortly have to consider the establishment of direct labour for maintenance. The rents of your Council houses vary from 7/6d. to 12/6d. per week, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £10 and £18.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 83-85.

Seven cases required action during the year.

Nuisances and Notices.

Re Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 91-100.

On the 1st January, 1948, there were 57 Informal Notices outstanding. During 1948 Informal Notices served were 156. The number of Informal Notices which were complied with during the year was 170, leaving outstanding on 31st December, 1948, a total of 43.

Statutory Notices outstanding on 1st January, 1948, numbered 34. During the year three Statutory Notices were served, and 21 were complied with, leaving outstanding on 31st December, 1948, a total of 16.

In no case was it necessary to obtain an Abatement Order from the Court. There was a general desire on the part of owners to remedy defects in spite of the current difficulties of controls and the shortage of labour and materials.

These actions entailed 201 initial visits to houses and 264 re-visits.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58.

No action was needed during the year.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 268-269.

There are six licensed camping sites in the Rural District, comprising three at Arnside, one at Storth, one at Levens, and one at Hazelslack. Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the area but very little nuisance arises from casual campers' improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal. Water is taken from polluted becks at their own risk.

As this District will be on the fringe of the future National Park it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites, to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Individual caravans licensed at the commencement of the year numbered 18. During the year four new licences were granted and five were withdrawn, leaving a total of 17 at the year end. Caravans, sheds and other immobilised vehicles are difficult to supervise, and if undetected they constitute an undesirable precedent for the indiscriminate and unauthorised erection of shacks which are not in keeping with the amenities of the District and which seriously aggravate the sanitary administration.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was not necessary during the year to use the powers of section 47 to secure the removal of any persons.

WATER.

The legislative framework lies in the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1944, and the Water Act, 1945.

The water supply to your District is derived from many sources. The principal source of public supply is from your Lupton reservoirs, the mains from which extend into 15 parishes in the southern part of your area.

Your Council control and maintain other sources of supply in a further nine parishes. The Thirlmere Aqueduct of Manchester Corporation passes through your District, and connected to it are some houses in the ten parishes along its route. In three parishes some of the houses draw supplies from the mains of Kendal Corporation.

The principal supply of three parishes and a supplementary supply in one parish are owned by commercial undertakings. A considerable portion of your District is dependent upon individual private supplies from wells, adits, springs, stored rain water or small watercourses. No public nor organised private supply whatever is available in sixteen parishes.

It must not be assumed that the supplies to all the above parishes are adequate. In a number of parishes very few houses are actually supplied from the sources named. The Rural Housing Survey, completed in June, 1946, detailed the number of houses served in each parish, and as some changes have occurred since then the present situation is tabulated in Table 2 herewith.

Briefly summarising those results as percentages of the total number of houses I estimated at the beginning of the year that :—

Supply laid on to house.

Public supply	...	...	59.0%
Commercial supply	...	...	5.5%
Private supply	...	...	23.5%
Total	...	...	<u>88.0%</u>

Supply not laid on to house.

Public standpipe	...	...	2.5%
Commercial standpipe	...	...	0.1%
Private water point	...	...	9.4%
Total	...	...	<u>12.0%</u>

The Lyth Valley area is particularly badly supplied with water, being dependent upon unreliable springs of very hard water from the limestone formation, or seriously contaminated shallow catchpits in the valley bottom. It is hoped that your Lupton supply will be extended to that area within the next few years.

Special measures were introduced during the year to safeguard the purity of the public supplies.

The quality of the public water supplies is generally good with the exception of Natland. The Laboratory results of examinations and analyses of the ten public supplies are set out in Appendix A. I have no official knowledge of the quality of the myriad of private supplies, and I

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION.

Parish.	Houses.	Public Supply		Organised Private Supply		Other Private Supply	
		Laid On	Not Laid on	Laid On	Not Laid On	Laid On	Not Laid On
Arnside	414	407	—	—	—	—	7
Barbon	83	61	—	—	—	18	4
Beetham	307	279	—	—	—	5	23
Burton	202	196	5	—	—	1	—
Casterton	62	47	4	—	—	11	—
Crook	105	—	—	—	—	82	23
Crosthwaite	155	1	—	—	—	90	64
Dalton	21	15	—	—	—	5	1
Dillicar	25	—	—	—	—	12	13
Docker	13	—	—	—	—	10	3
Fawcett Forest	13	—	—	—	—	11	2
Firbank	34	—	—	—	—	24	10
Grayrigg	46	22	—	—	—	13	11
Helsington	60	7	—	—	—	38	15
Heversham	126	124	1	—	—	—	1
Hincaster	27	22	—	—	—	4	1
Holme	191	184	6	—	—	1	—
Hugill	130	84	—	—	—	39	7
Hutton Roof	62	30	5	—	—	13	14
Kentmere	39	—	—	—	—	30	9
Killington	41	—	—	—	—	36	5
Kirkby Lonsdale	427	366	1	—	—	52	8
Lambrigg	30	—	—	—	—	21	9
Levens	241	201	14	—	—	9	17
Longsleddale	28	—	—	—	—	26	2
Lupton	49	3	3	—	—	14	1
Mansergh	41	—	—	—	—	35	6
Meathop	39	36	—	—	—	2	1
Middleton	44	—	—	—	—	36	8
Milnthorpe	404	383	21	—	—	—	—
Natland	77	65	—	—	—	11	1
Nether Staveley	141	104	6	—	—	26	5
New Hutton	58	4	—	—	—	45	9
Old Hutton	69	—	—	—	—	44	25
Over Staveley	179	128	26	—	—	21	4
Patton	14	—	—	—	—	8	6
Preston Patrick	115	81	—	—	—	30	4
Preston Richard	174	151	8	—	—	14	1
Scalthrowaiterigg	38	—	—	26	—	6	6
Sedgwick	52	30	18	—	—	4	—
Skelsmergh	71	24	—	7	—	31	9
Stainton	93	51	—	—	—	23	19
Strickland Ketel	241	1	—	178	3	25	34
Strickland Roger	93	3	—	59	4	22	5
Underbarrow	89	—	—	—	—	69	20
Whinfell	23	—	—	—	—	16	7
Whitwell and Selside	40	—	—	—	—	31	9
Witherslack	123	—	—	—	—	84	39
TOTALS	5,149	3,138	118	270	7	1,148	468

suspect that many of them are unsatisfactory in quality and very variable in quantity. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and, if in doubt, they should boil it. 53 out of 84 tested during the year were unsatisfactory.

The following is a brief review of your Council's public water supplies :—

Lupton Supply.

The parishes supplied are Arnside, Beetham, Heversham, Preston Patrick, Preston Richard, Sedgwick, Stainton, Hincaster, Holme, Hutton Roof, Levens, Lupton, Meathop and Milnthorpe.

The supply is upland surface water impounded into two reservoirs ; Barkin House reservoir has a capacity of 8,000,000 gallons and a top water-level of 630 feet O.D. The catchment area is open fell land, 332 acres, of which 104 acres are owned by your Council. The average rainfall over 14 years was 46.6 inches, and that of the three driest years 31.6 inches. Compensation water of 34,000 gallons per day has to be supplied.

The other reservoir is at Tarnhouse, with a capacity of 22,000,000 gallons, and a top water-level of 590 feet O.D. The catchment area is open fell land and some arable land, 217 acres, none of which is owned by your Council. The rainfall is the same for Barkin House.

These waters are mixed and filtered through Bell's pressure filters, and are chlorinated before distribution into the mains system. The reservoir is used for fishing under your Council's licence. The quality of the treated water is good.

Staveley Supply.

The parishes supplied are Hugill, Nether Staveley and Over Staveley. The source is spring water from a disused mine-working in the Kentmere valley. The water gravitates to an adit and is collected at 532 feet O.D. The water is untreated and is good in quality.

Kirkby Lonsdale Supply.

The source is from a water-bearing gravel bed at Fleet. The depth of the collecting chambers is about 9 feet with a top water-level of 330 feet O.D. The gathering-ground is not defined but is estimated to be at least 261 acres, of which your Council own one acre. The quantity of the supply has been abundant for some 70 years, and the quality has

been good except for plumbosolvent tendencies. The water passes untreated to the consumers.

Casterton Supply.

The source is from springs at 480 feet O.D. The quality is indifferent and the water is untreated.

Barbon Supply.

The source is from springs at 450 feet O.D. The quality is intermittently bad and the water is untreated. I made a detailed investigation of this supply, and recommended improvements to your Council.

Natland Water.

This area can be supplied from the Thirlmere main, but normally reliance has been placed upon local springs which are fed to a storage reservoir. The springs are bacteriologically bad, they are so sited that there is a risk of human pollution, and the open reservoir is seriously polluted. I have condemned this supply as unfit for human consumption unless the water is chlorinated and the reservoir is suitably covered. It is hoped that there will be extension of your Lupton supply to Natland.

Grayrigg Supply.

The source is upland surface water from uninhabited fell grazing ground some 57 acres in extent, none of which is owned by your Council. The water is collected in a small tank with a top water-level of 670 feet O.D. and is untreated. The quality is fair.

Burneside Supply.

This private commercial supply has its source in upland surface gathering-grounds on Potter Fell. The quality of the water at the last test was good. The water is untreated.

Garth Row.

This small scheme is upland surface water which was poor in quality at the last test.

Garnett Bridge.

This small scheme is upland surface water which was good in quality at the last test.

Those supplies which show poor or indifferent bacteriological results are in the main due to the upland gathering-grounds being grazed by

stock with the consequent manurial contamination of the water after rainfall. The bacterial counts fluctuate widely according to the climatic conditions, and as most of your public waters are untreated the contamination tends to be a nuisance in laboratory control rather than any particular danger to the consumers. Certain sources, however, require close investigation and supervision against possible human pollution. I hope to make a comprehensive report on all your water supplies within the next two years, when I have accumulated enough data to assess the limits of the fluctuations in quality.

Proposed Future Water Schemes.

Your Council propose to extend the Lupton supply to the Lyth Valley area, including Witherslack, Hôw, Row, Crosthwaite, Underbarrow and Brigsteer, with a later extension boosted up to the Crook district. The scheme has received the sanction of the Minister of Health, and it is hoped that a start will be made early in 1949. This scheme is most urgently needed for the convenience of inhabitants and for cleaning up the present obsolete sanitary arrangements.

Your Council propose to increase the supply of water to the Lupton system by impounding water in an enlarged reservoir at Wyndhammere, but these plans are only in a preparatory stage as alternative sources are being explored.

Various minor extensions and improvements were carried out during 1948 and similar work is planned for 1949.

Among these are the following :—

Endmoor.

Five miles new 6 in. main to Endmoor and 5 in. to Stainton Mill Bridge, including 3 in. branch pipe to west part of Stainton Parish. The whole of the area served by these mains have ample pressure and flow.

This extension will be continued to supply Natland Village which is, at present, largely dependent on spring water, the quality and quantity of this water being most unsatisfactory.

Old Hutton.

The Ministry of Health has approved a scheme for supplying water to Old Hutton, including a supply to new Council Houses at Middleshaw. This 3 mile length of pipe is now in hand and approximately half the length laid.

Selside.

The first part of the scheme to provide supply to Selside and Skelsmergh has been completed and a 6 in. main laid from Haweswater Aqueduct to Council's Housing site.

Garth Row.

A larger storage tank has been constructed for this small independent supply to Garth Row.

SEWERAGE.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 14.

The general position is not very satisfactory. Public sewers and disposal works exist only in the more populous parts of twelve parishes, and in three other parishes there are systems installed by commercial undertakings. The rest of your District relies upon individual septic tanks, cesspools or drainage into watercourses, or still retains the more primitive practices associated with privies, privy middens, pails, and earth-closets. This position is due to the lack or late installation of the public water supplies to these areas.

Your Council are fully aware of these deficiencies and are planning considerable extensions of the public sewerage system, and are improving replacing or some of the existing disposal works which have become obsolete or inadequate for present and future requirements. Many areas will still have to await the public water supply before their insanitary conditions can be properly remedied.

Disposal Methods and Works.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 15.

Arnside.

This plant consists of a tank on the shore fed by a sewer with a very poor fall, and embarrassed by tidal action. The effluent is discharged into the estuary and is often not of a very high standard. The whole of Morecambe Bay is, however, so grossly polluted with sewage that your contribution, although undesirable, is negligible in quantity. The sludge is pumped up to an old quarry at New Barns, where there are obsolete and inefficient so-called drying beds. These cause flooding of the adjacent land with foul sludge liquor. I do not like the Arnside arrangements. I suggest that the tank is becoming insufficient to deal

properly with the growing population of the area, that continued building of houses will inevitably increase the pollution of the foreshore. and I would recommend that alternative arrangements should be adopted for sludge drying and disposal.

Staveley.

This is a modern plant situated near Hundhow on the Back Road to Burneside. It consists of detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, and storm-water tanks, with suitable sludge drying beds. The effluent passes into the adjacent River Kent and is usually of good quality. I am satisfied that these works are capable of producing good results, and are adequate for the anticipated growth of the area.

Kirkby Lonsdale.

These works are situated on the Whittington Road near Robrairie. The design is old-fashioned but the results appear to be quite satisfactory. There are detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, and percolating filter beds from fixed sprinklers, storm-water tanks, and sludge drying beds. The effluent passes into the adjacent River Lune.

Milnthorpe.

This is an obsolete and inefficient tank situated on the Strands, near the gasworks. For the last quarter of a century the Reports of my predecessors have deplored its condition. The tank was originally designed as a percolating filter but the periodical rise of the Bela River floated out the media and fittings, so it was converted into a sedimentation tank. There is excessive infiltration water in the main sewer, the tank is inadequate for the development of Milnthorpe, and pollution of the Bela is unavoidable until your Council's scheme for superseding the plant, approved by the Ministry of Health, is completed.

Other Works.

A brief summary of the other sewage disposal works upon which I reserve comment is thus :—

Sedgwick	...	...	...	Riverside, Sedgwick.
Heversham	...	...	...	Marsh Lane, Heversham.
Endmoor	...	...	...	Challon Hall, Preston Richard.
Casterton	...	...	...	Kirfit Hall, Casterton.
Burton	...	...	...	Ley Pitts, Burton.
Holme	...	...	...	Mill Lane, Holme.

Levens	...	...	...	Three small tank schemes.
Storth ...	...	...	...	One small tank scheme.
Hutton Roof ...	...	...	...	One small tank scheme.
Whasset	...	...	...	One small tank scheme.
Mealbank	...	...	...	One small private scheme.
Burneside	...	...	...	One small private scheme.

Proposed New Sewerage Schemes.

Milnthorpe.

During the year the Minister of Health approved revised plans for the Milnthorpe Scheme, having excluded Beetham, Storth, and Carr Bank. It is hoped that the work of construction will commence in the Spring of next year.

Levens.

Your Council were of the opinion that the existing three small tanks in this village were unsatisfactory for present needs and inadequate to deal with the new houses planned for erection and subsequent development. A scheme was prepared by your Consulting Engineers and awaits submission to the Ministry of Health.

Crooklands.

A small scheme is in course of preparation for this area.

Burneside.

Your Council propose to come to an arrangement with Kendal Borough for the Burneside sewage to be taken into the Kendal system at the boundary.

Small Schemes.

In such a scattered rural area the extension of many township and village systems would be impracticable, and therefore some small schemes will be needed to serve hamlets and small villages when water supplies are installed.

Prevalence of Water Closets and Other Methods.

Four-fifths of your houses have water-closets, but the other fifth comprises about a thousand houses with more primitive arrangements. There are still 533 privy middens in your District. The details of the various types of sanitary fittings in each parish were set out in Table IV of last year's Report. From this list it was easy to see that considerable

work lies ahead in cleaning up the District, and that the worst areas are those which are awaiting the arrival of the public water supplies.

Improvements achieved during the year included :—

Privy closets and middens abolished and W.C.'s provided	...	52
Privy closets and middens abolished and pails provided	...	2
Pail closets abolished and W.C.'s provided	... ..	1
Additional W.C.'s provided	... ..	132
Privy middens converted to pails	... ..	1
New drainage systems installed	... ..	13
Overflowing tanks remedied	... ..	5
Choked and defective drainage systems remedied	... ..	9

Number of inspections relative to sanitary accommodation and conveniences during the year, 240.

Notices served re Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage.

Insanitary privy middens	... ..	19
Defective sanitary pails	... ..	7
Closets with insufficient flush	... ..	2
Inaccessible sanitary accommodation	... ..	2
Broken W.C. pedestals	... ..	2
Insufficient and defective drainage systems	... ..	20
Choked drainage systems...	... ..	11

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 87.

Public conveniences are maintained in Arnside, Milnthorpe and Kirkby Lonsdale. Continual complaints are received of the unsatisfactory condition of the two former, and constant cleaning and supervision are required to deal with the public misuse to which they are subjected. It is a curious trend in public morals for toilets to be so defiled with careless excretion, obscene and perverted mural decorations, and so often damaged by wanton destruction of the actual fittings.

Conveniences are needed in all the populous villages particularly to deal with the increasing motor coach traffic. The systematic defiling of our village back streets and yards continues mainly because the visitors are offered no alternative. The present time is not opportune for embarking upon any extensive scheme of public lavatories, but I regard their ultimate provision as a much-needed public health measure rather than a source of income to your Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 72.

Refuse collection is undertaken by the Council in the following parishes :—Arnside, Barbon, Beetham, Burton, Dillicar, Casterton, Crosthwaite and Lyth, Crook, Helsington, Heversham, Hincaster, Holme, Hugill, Levens, Milnthorpe, Natland, Nether Staveley, New Hutton, Old Hutton, Over Staveley, Kirkby Lonsdale, Preston Patrick, Preston Richard, Lupton, Scalthwaiterigg, Grayrigg, Meathop, Dalton, Hutton Roof, Selside.

The service was completely overhauled during the year to cover all the more populated parts of the Council's area. With the exception of Dillicar the work is carried out by direct labour with the Council's own vehicles. Private collection and disposal services are provided for the two parishes of Strickland Ketel and Roger.

It is hoped when arrears have been overcome, and inefficient and obsolescent vehicles have been replaced, to provide a collection service for the whole of your District. After that your Council's aim will be to maintain weekly collections in the more urbanised portions of your District.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 76.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by controlled tipping on four of your Council's tips. The greatest difficulty in controlled tipping is to obtain sufficient covering material. The natural beauty of the countryside must not be desecrated by multiple dumps of ugly human refuse. Yet the refuse must be put somewhere and the land does not yield enough covering material to hide and minimise the consequent nuisances of unsightliness, smell, flies, rats, and fire. In the days of horse-drawn refuse carts and local contractors it was obviously imperative to use multiple local tips, but now motor transport has changed the situation. I think that you should aim at centralising your tips as far as practicable, thus limiting the nuisances and favouring better supervision of the tip faces.

The position regarding your present tips at the year end was as follows :—

Arnside.

Old tip discontinued and reinstated, new tip acquired and operated at Slackhead, Beetham.

Holme.

There is space here for a further four or five years.

Staveley.

Old tip at Hugill discontinued and reinstated, new tip at Staveley acquired and operated.

Kirkby Lonsdale.

Old tip discontinued, new tip acquired and operated at Potts Hole, Underley.

Negotiations are proceeding for obtaining new tips at Preston Patrick and Hutton Roof.

The following tips have been closed :—

Clawthorpe, Hazelslack, Hugill, Heversham, and Millness.

Inspections re Refuse Collection. Accommodation and Disposal.

Inspections and visits <i>re</i> ashplace accommodation, complaints, survey, etc.	271
Visits <i>re</i> accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

Notices Served re Refuse Service.

Number of notices served <i>re</i> accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of notices served <i>re</i> ashplace accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Number of notices served <i>re</i> defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of notices served <i>re</i> insanitary ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

Improvements Effected.

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dustbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179

Salvage of Waste Material.*Salvage Recovery Order, 1940.*

Salvage is carried out in the national interest at an annual average loss to your Council. It is quite obvious that with so many scattered tips serving only a relatively small population the sorting and collection of waste materials will be uneconomical. However, your Council are aware of the wider issues, and they have ensured that the salvage of wastepaper has been steadily maintained and the public stimulated at intervals to improve their yield.

Salvage collected during 1948.

							Sold for :		
							£	s.	d.
			Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.			
Waste paper	...	...	39	9	1	0	251	14	8
Bones	...	...	1	12	0	0	7	12	6
Rags	...	...	0	11	0	14	8	12	6
Woollens	...	...	0	0	2	13	1	14	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
<hr/>							<hr/>		
TOTALS	...	...	41	13	1	27	£269	16	2
<hr/>							<hr/>		

This shows a praiseworthy increase over the previous year. 19 tons more waste paper was collected, and the income was £128 9s. 7d. more, about a 90 per cent. increase.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 77.

In the few areas where street cleansing is undertaken by your Council, the streets are well maintained. The County Council undertake the remainder and maintain a similarly high standard.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, your Council has the duty of carrying out specific responsibilities in the registration of certain food premises, in the supervision of milk and dairies, and in the wide field of protection of the public from foodborne diseases. The County Council are responsible for the licensing of designated milk producers, the adulteration of foodstuffs, and the supervision of the sale of drugs.

The Act came into force just before the commencement of the late war, and apart from the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations which were continued from earlier Acts, its full operation has not been locally achieved. The Ministry of Health is sponsoring a vigorous campaign against foodborne diseases, and the proper implementation of the Act should give a greater measure of protection to the public. The co-operation of the catering trade and the education of all foodhandlers in a high standard of hygiene will be sought under the wide powers provided by the Act.

Precaution against Contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.

Food traders and caterers observe a fairly good standard of cleanliness on the average, but considerable work lies ahead in raising the standard of those who are now below that average. I want to see cleaner food, cleaner premises, and cleaner foodhandlers.

This aim is of major importance. It will involve my department carrying out your statutory responsibilities with particular diligence, and it will require the education and co-operation of all foodhandlers within your area.

I am confident that this co-operation will be forthcoming. I believe that traders are eager to set their premises in order in the interests of enterprise and competition, and that they are anxious to eliminate slipshod methods among their staffs.

Thorough cleanliness in the kitchen is far more important than titivation in the dining-room. No food trader nor caterer should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes, and every customer should be confident that the food he eats is clean and has been cleanly prepared. He has a right to be so protected, and your Council is the guardian of that right.

Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries, and attacks of diarrhœa and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes, and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

One hundred and twenty-eight visits were made during the year to food preparing premises.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	...	5
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	...	...	4
Storage and sale only	...	...	21

During the year all registrations were reviewed because the 1947 Regulations entailed the specific registration of premises for hot mix or cold mix manufacture.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into force during the previous year and stimulated traders to undertake improvements. The response was good in spite of the cost and difficulty in obtaining equipment.

A comprehensive code of standards for ice-cream factories, plant and retail units was approved by your Council and subsequently circulated to the trade. Seventy-three visits were made during the year and a number of samples were tested.

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

The number of premises on the Register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, and pickled foods had not been ascertained at the year end. Complete inspections are being carried out for the purpose of compiling a Register.

Registration of Dairies and Dairymen.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943.

Total number of registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	875
Total number of registered Dairymen	...	...	...	...	931
Producer-retailers within the District	...	...	...	...	277
Producer-retailers outside the District	...	...	...	...	Nil
Retailers from premises within the District	...	...	...	...	7
Retailers from premises outside the District	...	...	...	...	2

Classification of Farms.

The Farm Classification Survey which was commenced in 1945 was continued during the year, and at the end of 1948 the Survey had covered 43 out of your 48 parishes, and comprised 677 farms. The summarised results are set out in the Table herewith.

Basis of Classification.

- Class 1. Satisfactory.
- Class 2. Satisfactory with absence of dairy.
- Class 3. Minor defects.
- Class 4. Major defects.
- Class 5. Unsatisfactory.

CLASSIFICATION OF FARMS INSPECTED TO DATE.

Parish.	Number of Farms.	Classification.				
		1	2	3	4	5
Preston Patrick ...	28	14	4	3	4	3
Whinfell ...	15	7	1	4	1	2
Preston Richard ...	23	9	3	4	3	4
Selside ...	18	7	—	8	2	1
Kentmere ...	7	1	—	—	2	4
Milnthorpe ...	5	3	—	1	1	—
Patton ...	5	—	—	2	2	1
Kirkby Lonsdale ...	19	4	—	10	4	1
Casterton ...	15	5	1	5	2	2
Lambrigg ...	11	2	2	4	2	1
Over Staveley ...	11	2	—	8	—	1
Scalthwaiterigg ...	5	—	—	3	1	1
Arnside ...	5	—	—	2	2	1
Barbon ...	10	2	1	6	1	—
Doeker ...	10	1	1	7	—	1
Hineaster ...	6	2	—	2	1	1
Crook ...	26	5	—	10	5	6
Longsleddale ...	9	2	—	4	3	—
Holme ...	9	2	—	4	2	1
Witherslaek ...	23	—	1	12	7	3
Meathop ...	6	—	—	3	3	—
Dalton ...	9	6	—	3	—	—
Crosthwaite ...	52	11	2	14	14	11
Burton ...	13	4	1	8	—	—
Levens ...	21	2	1	10	5	3
New Hutton ...	29	3	3	13	5	5
Stainton ...	24	5	1	10	5	3
Grayrigg ...	20	1	1	7	7	4
Hutton Roof ...	22	4	2	11	1	4
Faweett Forest ...	2	—	1	1	—	—
Dilliear ...	6	—	—	5	1	—
Lupton ...	16	7	—	7	1	1
Underbarrow ...	31	6	2	8	4	11
Killington ...	20	3	—	10	2	5
Hugill ...	12	—	—	2	7	3
Helsington ...	14	1	—	6	4	3
Heversham ...	13	3	—	4	3	3
Strickland Ketel ...	19	4	1	2	4	8
Strickland Roger ...	17	2	—	5	6	4
Skelsmergh ...	14	3	—	6	5	—
Natland ...	8	—	—	2	6	—
Beetham ...	27	7	—	5	4	11
Old Hutton ...	22	3	2	12	1	4
TOTALS ...	677	143	31	253	133	117

At the time of the primary inspection of farms only 64 were satisfactory in all respects. During the course of the survey the number of Class 1 farms has been increased to 140 and the other classifications have been amended in proportion. It has emphasised those parishes in the district which suffer from lack of public services, in particular water.

Considerable emphasis was placed upon the improvement of cowsheds and dairies in your District. These functions will be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries when the Food and Drugs Act, 1944, comes into operation, but your Council felt that this impending change should not be the excuse for abandonment of a progressive policy which will benefit the farming industry as well as the public health. I believe that your Council is in the forefront of progress in this sphere, and I hope that this vigorous policy will be sustained by the Ministry of Agriculture when the changeover takes place.

There is still a lot to be done, but your Council's post-war achievements show that in spite of shortages of labour and material, and the high cost of building, it is practicable to comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, given the will and energy to fight against apathy.

Six hundred and eight inspections were made of dairies and cowsheds during the year, and the following position with regard to the service of Notices obtained :—

Notices served under Milk and Dairies Regulations during 1946	190
Notices served under Milk and Dairies Regulations during 1947	325
Notices served under Milk and Dairies Regulations during 1948	0
	<hr/>
Total Notices served	515
	<hr/>
Notices completely complied with	102
Notices partly or wholly outstanding	413
	<hr/>
Total	515
	<hr/>

Part work has been carried out on 73 farms, involving considerable alterations, but the notices have not been completed in their entirety.

Works of Improvement carried out.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
New cowsheds erected ...	4	4	2	8	25
Cowsheds reconditioned ...	14	11	6	27	31
Extra windows provided ...	—	3	10	49	39
Drainage improvements ...	—	1	4	16	6
Floors reconstructed ...	1	—	9	58	37
Improved water supply ...	1	4	4	17	6
New dairies ...	14	15	14	53	57
Walls cement rendered ...	—	—	—	56	39
New manure middens...	—	—	—	3	4
	34	38	49	287	244

We have now to look ahead to the 413 outstanding Notices, which are accumulating steadily, and decide which deserve priority for the attention of the limited building resources of the District. Meanwhile the Survey will continue, but there is no reason to suppose that the remaining quarter of your total parishes will yield results differing much from the proportions of the three-quarters which have been completed. It therefore looks as though you will be handing over next year to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries about two-thirds of reasonably satisfactory farms and one-third of bad premises.

The emphasis on dairies and cowsheds has been accentuated during recent years by the changed policy in local agriculture. Milk production has increased very considerably since the pre-war years on account of the financial inducements, and this has led to dairy cattle being kept in buildings which were primarily designed, though not admittedly always suitably designed, for stock rearing purposes, and indeed to the keeping of cows in premises which were not designed for keeping cattle at all. The encouraging popularity of the Attested Herds Scheme has stimulated interest in the further financial advantages of designated milk production, and this has involved much alteration of the cowsheds and dairies. This is an obviously alive and expanding local industry and I hope it will flourish.

Retail Milk.

There are estimated to be 280 retailers in your District, the majority of whom are producer-retailers, and the number of customers supplied varies from two or three to one hundred.

In the coming year more regular and routine sampling of retail producers' milk is to proceed and every effort made by the service of notices to bring the premises concerned up to a satisfactory standard.

The approximate classification of farms where milk is produced for is as follows :—

Classification.				
1	2	3	4	5
16%	4%	41%	22%	15%

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened consumers for bottling. Milk-round vehicles are maintained generally in a clean condition. Rationalisation of milk-rounds in the townships is still in force and is certainly not in the best interests of the consumer.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

One hundred and forty-six samples of milk were taken during 1948 for laboratory examination. The results were :—

Passed Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	95
Passed <i>B. coli</i> Test	...	...	...	74
Passed Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	18
Failed Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	53
Failed <i>B. coli</i> Test	...	...	...	49
Failed Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	1

It remains irrational to judge non-designated milks on the standards of designated milks.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

Forty-five samples were examined biologically in guinea-pigs for the presence of tuberculosis organisms, and two were positive. In these latter cases further inquiry was made, and in one of them the Divisional Veterinary Inspector found a cow with a tuberculous udder and had it slaughtered. This particular cow was traced back from a human case in your district. One other tuberculous cow in your area was traced and slaughtered following an infected milk sample taken in Kendal.

The finding of tubercle bacilli in milk is difficult, and one must bear in mind the human biological tests on your own children with their tragic record of 46 new cases and 16 deaths in the past ten years from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The growth of the Attested Herds Scheme and Tuberculin-Tested milk production will gradually reduce this toll of human suffering, but more extensive sampling of ungraded milks would appear to be required.

No instances of other disease producing organisms in milk were found. We know that *Brucella Abortus*, the organism which causes contagious abortus in cattle and undulant fever in man, can be isolated from a good proportion of bulked milk supplies, and it is probable that mild infections constantly occur. No serious cases have been encountered and the veterinary profession is taking steps to inoculate cattle against the disease.

It was necessary during the year to restrict the milk handling activities of two members of a farm household, because they were found to be carriers of dysentery organisms. Notices under Article 19 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, were imposed in January, and were rescinded in June upon proof of cure. Arrangements had been made for milk from this farm to be heat-treated. These control measures limited the dysentery to the infected household, and prevented a widespread milk-borne outbreak.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.

The County Council is responsible for the granting of annual licences authorising the use of the special designations "Tuberculin-Tested" and "Accredited" in respect of establishments at which the milk is produced and bottled or only produced. The following establishments in the District were so licensed :—

Tuberculin-Tested	...	82
Accredited	...	10

an increase of 29 T.T. and a decrease of one Accredited during the year.

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of annual licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised," and for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of

Tuberculin-Tested and Accredited milks. The following licences were in force during the year :—

Tuberculin-Tested and Accredited Milks.

T.T. Accredited.

Form B. Licence in respect of an establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced) at which the milk is bottled	...	...	o	o
Form B. Dealer's Licence in respect of each shop or other establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled) at or from which the milk is sold	...	...	...	...
	...	...	1	o
Form D. Supplementary Licence with respect to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the Licensing Authority	...	...	o	o

Pasteurised Milk.

Form C. Pasteuriser's Licence in respect of the establishment in which the process of pasteurising is carried on, and of any shop or other establishment in the area of the same Licensing Authority at or from which the milk is sold by the same dealer (Holder Process)	...	...	...	...	...	...	o
Form E. As for Form C with the exception that the pasteurisation process shall be by the High Temperature Short-Time Process	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Form B. Dealer's Licence in respect of each shop or other establishment (not being an establishment covered by a licence under Form C or E) at or from which the milk is sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	o
Form D. Supplementary Licence in relation to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the Licensing Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	o

Pasteurisation Plants.

There is one licensed High Temperature Short-Time Pasteurisation Plant at Barbon Creamery.

There is one Ministry of Food Heat Treatment Plant for use under Defence Regulation 55G at the premises of Libby, McNeill & Libby, Ltd., Milnthorpe.

Slaughterhouses.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 57-61.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses nor knackers' yards in the District. Centralisation of slaughtering under the arrangements of the Ministry of Food continues. Casualty slaughters are inspected on the site in every case.

Condemnation of Meat.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

All slaughtering is carried out in abattoirs situated in the area of other authorities, and the meat is inspected therein. The motor vehicles used for the conveyance of meat are not entirely satisfactory. The following meat was condemned in the course of distribution :—

Three hindquarters of Beef	...	...	339 lbs.
One forequarter of Beef	...	...	63 lbs.
Two pig carcasses	...	...	360 lbs.
One pig's head.			

Condemnation of Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 10-12.

Prunes	...	...	...	...	210 lbs.
Oats	...	...	...	...	112 lbs.
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	31 lbs.
Scone Mixture (6 lb. packets)	...	...	...	...	51 pkts.
Canadian Eggs	...	...	...	...	30 dozen
Bacon	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Victoria Jam (1½ lb. tins)	...	...	...	...	41 tins
Marimalade (1½ lb. tins)	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Evaporated Milk (14½ oz. tins)	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Meat Loaf...	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Beans in Tomato...	...	...	...	...	9 tins
Steak	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Salmon	...	...	...	...	1 tin
Sardines	...	...	...	...	13 tins
Peas	...	...	...	...	3 tins
Fruit Salad	...	...	...	...	3 tins
Grape Fruit	...	...	...	...	3 tins

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION.

Your Council employs one Chief Sanitary Inspector and two Additional Sanitary Inspectors. The salary is apportioned between the sanitary inspection duties and the other duties in a proportion approved by the Minister of Health. You receive through the County Council a grant of one-half of that apportionment of the salary allocated to sanitary inspection, and this should therefore be the basis upon which time is devoted to the various duties.

For the past few years the control of civil builders' work threw an undue strain upon the department to the prejudice of sanitary inspection. This has been greatly relieved during the year but a very much greater burden has been imposed by your Council accepting certain delegated powers under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. This has resulted in a volume of extra work which is quite disproportionate to the benefits you seem to receive by such limited delegated powers. I am keeping this matter under close review as I am not at all satisfied with the position.

For part of the year the department was short of clerical assistance. It is desirable that the time of technical staff should not be dissipated on clerical duties, although a certain amount of office work can be done only with that technical knowledge. I am sure that the new establishment will improve this position.

The war years caused the accumulation of considerable arrears of work in many aspects of your Council's sanitary functions, and it will take a fair time to make good this leeway. I support most strongly the policy of my Chief Sanitary Inspector to concentrate upon the more essential functions in a thorough manner, each in turn, and therefore it will be seen from this Report that some duties are not at present being carried out to the extent which is desired.

I deprecate mere token performance of your Council's statutory responsibilities, my department has set itself a high standard of efficiency, and I am convinced that we are working on the right lines to raise your Council to the forefront of progressive authorities. Your existence depends upon efficiency in these times of increasing centralisation of government.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspection.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	15	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	103	19	6	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	149	34	6	Nil

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	12	12	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	15	—	—	—

Summary of Inspections carried out during the Year.

Dwelling-houses—primary visits	201
Dwelling-houses—re-visits	264
Moveable dwellings	295
Farms—primary visits	38
Farms—re-visits	570
Shops	25
Slaughterhouses	4
Food preparing premises	40
Bakehouses	15
Ice cream manufacturers	73
Licensed premises	1
Schools	3
Factories	12
Workplaces	3
Piggeries	22
Drain inspections	375
Visits <i>re</i> water supply	159
Infectious diseases	50
Disinfections	22
New buildings	473
Temporary buildings	185
Accumulations	25
Ashes accommodation	271
Cesspools	102
Sanitary accommodation	240
Milk samples	150
Water samples	88
Visits <i>re</i> Building Licence	166
Interviews	744
Miscellaneous	243
	<hr/>
	4,859

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 149 factories on the Register ; 34 inspections were made and six written Notices were served. No references were made to H.M.

Inspector and none were received from him. No prosecutions were required.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District. One certificate was issued during the year regarding means of escape from factories in case of fire.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, giving the details of your Council's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

It has not been possible in the past to perform these duties in an adequate manner, but it is hoped that next year may bring some improvement. Liaison with H.M. Inspector is very good, and there is no reason to believe that factory conditions have suffered unduly by the arrears of work incurred.

Shops Acts. 1912-1936.

Twenty-five shop premises were visited during the year. No action required to be taken *re* enforcing sanitary provisions. These duties are not adequately covered due to the prior claim of other work.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936, Part IX.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in your district.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No action was taken during the year and no rent book entries were reported to be irregular.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936, S.101-106.

No action was needed during the year.

Laboratory Services.

Laboratory facilities were available both at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health purposes. During 1947 a new scheme was inaugurated by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the performance of all laboratory examinations of a preventive and epidemiological nature, free of charge, to the Local Authority and the patient. This should do

much to encourage the freer use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your Health Department. Certain difficulties were experienced in arranging the times of despatch of samples, but smoother working is expected next year.

Bye-laws.

Bye-laws on public health matters are in force for :—

- Building.
- New streets.
- Drainage of existing buildings.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Tents, vans and sheds.

New Legislation.

National Health Service Act, 1946, became operative 5th July, 1948.

Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, became operative 1st July, 1948.

National Assistance Act, 1948, became operative 5th July, 1948.

APPENDIX "A."

[illegible]

